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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)PAGE 01 CARACA 01688 01 OF 02 151048Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	C-01	DODE-00
	EB-01	E-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01
	P-01	SNP-01	SP-01	SSO-00	SS-01	STR-20	TRSE-00
	T-01	USIE-00	/063W				

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O 142317Z FEB 92 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8393
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 01688

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, ECIN, VE
SUBJECT: COPEI [REDACTED] COMMENTS ON
POLITICAL SITUATION, FEBRUARY 13

REF: CARACAS 01607

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. COPEI [REDACTED]
SAYS THAT PARTY LEADERS ARE HOLDING MEETINGS WITH
REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER PARTIES TO TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT
ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO SURMOUNT THE POLITICAL
CRISIS. IF THEY SUCCEED, THEY PLAN TO PRESENT THEIR
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PROPOSALS TO CAP. MEANWHILE, COPEI OFFICIALS WILL WORK ON
FLESHING OUT THE IDEAS CONTAINED IN SECRETARY GENERAL
EDUARDO FERNANDEZ' FEBRUARY 13 SPEECH (REFTEL). [REDACTED]
BELIEVES THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO IMPLEMENT "EMERGENCY"
MEASURES OF IMMEDIATE BENEFIT TO THE PUBLIC AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE LEST CONTINUED DISSATISFACTION CAUSE ANOTHER COUP
ATTEMPT. END SUMMARY.

MEETING WITH [REDACTED]

3. POLOFF MET ON FEBRUARY 13 WITH COPEI [REDACTED]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 13 FEB 2017
DATE/CASE ID: 28 JUL 2008 200503656

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[REDACTED] SEVERAL HOURS AFTER PARTY SECRETARY
GENERAL EDUARDO FERNANDEZ' SPEECH ANNOUNCING COPEI'S NEW
ALTERNATE PROGRAM FOR OVERCOMING THE POLITICAL CRISIS
(REFTEL). [REDACTED]

THE POLITICAL SITUATION

4. [REDACTED] BELIEVES THAT THE COUNTRY IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE
AND THAT ANOTHER COUP ATTEMPT IS POSSIBLE IF SOMETHING IS
NOT DONE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. HE SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH
THE TIMING OF THE COUP ATTEMPT HAD BEEN A SURPRISE, THE
ATTEMPT ITSELF HAD NOT. HE USED HIS OWN FAMILY AS AN
EXAMPLE IN EXPLAINING WHY IT HAD NOT. EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO,

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[REDACTED]
ADULT CHILDREN, HE CONTINUED, HAVE TO LIVE WITH HIM SINCE
THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO BUY OR EVEN TO RENT AN APARTMENT,
MUCH LESS A HOUSE. THIS DESPITE THEIR POSSESSION OF
DEGREES FROM U.S. UNIVERSITIES. THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL,
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[REDACTED] WARNED, SIMPLY CANNOT CONTINUE. BUT,
UNFORTUNATELY, CAP IS OUT OF TOUCH WITH NATIONAL REALITY
AND, DESPITE THE COUP ATTEMPT, WHICH SHOULD HAVE AWAKENED
HIM, SIMPLY DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE DEPTH OF NATIONAL
DISSATISFACTION.

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COPEI'S RESPONSE

5. COPEI, [REDACTED] IS ATTEMPTING TO COPE WITH THE
POLITICAL CRISIS. THE PARTY HAS OPENED BOTH MEDICAL AND
LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICES AT PARTY OFFICES IN MANY CITIES.
THESE "CLINICS," STAFFED BY DOCTORS AND LAWYERS, OFFER
ADVICE AND TREATMENT FREE OF CHARGE TO ANYONE WHO NEEDS
THEM. THE PARTY IS ALSO WORKING TO CREATE COOPERATIVES
FOR THE PURCHASE OF FOODSTUFFS AND OTHER NECESSITIES AT
THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICE. CLOSER TO HOME, COPEI LEADERS
HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER PARTIES,
FOR EXAMPLE, AD THE PREVIOUS DAY, TO TRY TO REACH
AGREEMENT ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO SURMOUNT THE
POLITICAL CRISIS. IF THEY SUCCEED [REDACTED] ADDED, THEY
PLAN TO PRESENT THEIR PROPOSALS TO CAP. IN ADDITION,
[REDACTED] PARTY OFFICIALS ARE WORKING TO FLESH OUT
THE IDEAS IN FERNANDEZ' SPEECH (REFTEL).

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NEED FOR EMERGENCY MEASURES

6. [REDACTED] ALTHOUGH COPEI'S WORK WILL PRODUCE RESULTS IN THE LONG RUN, IT IS NOT ENOUGH. EMERGENCY MEASURES ARE NECESSARY IF ANOTHER COUP ATTEMPT IS TO BE PREVENTED. [REDACTED] THE GOVERNMENT COULD IMMEDIATELY FREEZE THE PRICE OF, SAY, TEN ESSENTIAL ITEMS,
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INAUGURATE A HUGE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM TO PROVIDE JOBS, AND PROVIDE MASSIVE SUBSIDIES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF "POPULAR" HOUSING. COPEI IS WORKING TO COME UP WITH OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR EMERGENCY MEASURES AS WELL, [REDACTED] HE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THE PARTY WAS ALSO STILL STUDYING THE IDEA OF FORMALLY PROPOSING THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVING THE 1993 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS UP TO COINCIDE WITH THIS YEAR'S LOCAL ELECTIONS.

COMMENT

7. [REDACTED] COMMENT THAT THE PARTY IS STILL STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMALLY PROPOSING THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 01688

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SUBJECT: [REDACTED] COMMENTS ON

ELECTION BE MOVED UP TO THIS YEAR IS AT VARIANCE WITH WHAT
[REDACTED] ARE SAYING. IT IS DOUBTFUL COPEI WILL
FORMALLY MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL. IT IS ALSO OPEN TO
QUESTION WHETHER [REDACTED] ENTHUSIASM FOR "EMERGENCY"
MEASURES IS WIDELY SHARED IN THE [REDACTED]
HOWEVER, ARE OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRESENT
POLITICAL SITUATION AND ARE GROPING FOR WAYS TO OVERCOME
THE CRISIS.
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